



## **Mental Health Update June 1, 2007**

### **FUTURES PROJECT**

#### **Retreat Healthcare Proposes State Partnership**

The leadership of Retreat Healthcare made a presentation to the Futures Advisory Committee in May, outlining its proposal to provide specialized inpatient care as well as community residential beds for adults. The proposal offers the Retreat's expertise in support of the State's plan to replace Vermont State Hospital (VSH). The Advisory Committee will discuss the proposal at its June 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. Retreat Healthcare's proposal is posted on the website.

#### **WCAX (CBS) Channel 3 Runs Special Series on VSH**

A 3-part series on the Vermont State Hospital aired this week on statewide television. The special broadcast showcased the important role of peers in supporting recovery, outlined the options that will be explored in planning for the hospital's replacement, described the progress being made to improve the current facility and quality of care, and clearly indicated the broad consensus that VSH must be replaced. Segments of the series may still be viewed on the station's Web site, [www.wcax.com](http://www.wcax.com).

#### **Summer Study of Corrections Mental Health Issues**

The legislature's Corrections Oversight Committee will begin meeting in July. In addition to its general oversight role, the committee is expected to focus on the mental health needs of people who are incarcerated or detained by the Department of Corrections or otherwise under its supervision. The Futures project will be engaged in this dialogue and encourages the broader stakeholder community to participate. Meetings will be held in the Statehouse, Room 11, at 9:30 on July 10, September 11, October 9, November 5, and December 17.

The Corrections Inpatient Work Group of the Futures Advisory Committee continues to meet monthly, working to develop an approach that will enable us to project the inpatient needs for inmates with psychiatric conditions for whom we must plan in replacing VSH. The minutes of May 21<sup>st</sup> meeting are posted on the web site.

#### **Futures Advisory Committee Minutes**

The minutes of May 7<sup>th</sup> are posted on the web site.

## **Peer Support Program Development Work Group**

The minutes of May 17<sup>th</sup> are posted on the web site.

### **CHILDREN'S**

#### **SAMHSA Proposal**

The Agency Human Services (AHS) Child Trauma Workgroup, including membership from the Child, Adolescent and Family unit of the Division of Mental Health, submitted a proposal for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) National Child Traumatic Stress Initiative, Community Treatment and Services Center grant. Washington County Mental Health Services as the applicant agency, Howard Center, and the Trauma Center at the Justice Resource Institute (in Massachusetts), together forming The Vermont Partnership of the New England Trauma Services Network, are proposing to implement the Attachment, Self-Regulation and Competency (ARC) model of care in two of Vermont's communities, Washington and Chittenden counties, and expand to 2 additional communities in later years of the grant. The Vermont Partnership aims to provide evidenced-based services for child and adolescent victims of complex trauma (i.e. multiple and/or chronic exposure to developmentally adverse interpersonal victimization) and their families; and, refugee children of war-torn countries who may have witnessed serial or repeated exposure of childhood adversity.

The goals of this project are to: 1) implement more effective trauma services that will result in a measurable improvement in the functioning of children and the families of children experiencing complex trauma; 2) increase understanding among stakeholders and other community providers about effective interventions for those impacted by trauma; and 3) integrate key components of the project into the existing service delivery system to ensure sustainability of the program. The partnership will also form a chapter of NETSN. While most Community Treatment and Service Centers are comprised of one organization covering a defined geographic area, our project proposes to develop a Chapter which is essentially a network of Designated Agencies throughout the state. As such, we will work together to identify sustainability options including funding sources, engage more Designated Agencies in our network and continue to work towards dissemination of the ARC model statewide. The successful implementation of this project and the achievement of the identified goals will result in transformation of the system of delivery of care for children and families of children experiencing complex trauma.

### **VERMONT INTEGRATED SERVICES INITIATIVE (VISI)**

#### **VISI One Day Training**

On Friday, June 22 VISI will be conducting a one day introductory training on co-occurring conditions and integrated services for the statewide Vermont Department of Prevention, Assistance, Transition, and Health Access (PATH) providers. This will be one of four modules in VISI's Co-occurring 101 series. The seven PATH providers outreach and engage people who are experiencing homelessness and who have a serious

mental illness. These PATH providers are VISI participants and will be focusing on screening and referral of people with co-occurring conditions. Dr. Kenneth Minkoff will kick off the day with a discussion of co-occurring principles and treatment as an evidence-based practice. Staff and volunteers from the recovery centers around the state are also invited to attend for part of the day.

## **VERMONT STATE HOSPITAL CENSUS**

The Vermont State Hospital Census was 49 as of midnight Wednesday night. The average census for the past 45 days was 49.